

A  
VINDICATION  
OF THE  
LONDON  
APPRENTICES  
PETITION.

AND

The Legality of their Subscriptions  
*Asserted.*



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LONDON,

Printed in the Year, MDCLIX.

A

VINDICATION

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JUNE 1, 1916

LONDON

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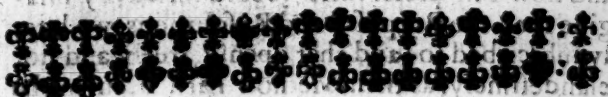
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WE were no way ignorant how  
unsuitable & disgustful any the  
most sober, most innocent  
endeavours after Peace would  
and still will be to those men  
that delight in War, who having raised them-  
selves from nothing, will rather turn every stone  
then this poor miserable Nation should return to  
a settlement; which like the guidance and mo-  
tion of the *Primum Mobile* that governs and or-  
ders the course of all the Spheres; would in a  
short space of time bring them about to their for-  
mer annihilation; and therefore we were no way  
surprized at the late Proclamation of the Com-  
mittee of Safety; for we nor any Englishmen  
that have observed their Method, Order, and  
End of Government, which is solely Self-Interest,

and now Self-preservation, could rationally imagine that the Purposes and Resolutions we lately subscribed to (and that openly, freely and not clandestinely, as their Method hath been in the procurement and surreptitious obtainment of their *pro tempore* Addresses, as they term them) could easily digest with them who have more need of a Cordial than a Vomit. We could sadly remember, and with indignation retort upon them, those many sly Artifices, cunning Insinuations, and plausible Pretences wherewith they won upon our credulity, and drew us in to those riotous disorderly Assemblies against the Court at *White Hall*; how they abetted us in those Tumults, and made it Capital to the King, that we were stopped once or twice in our mischievous Carriere against the Laws by some Gentlemen then attending him, and yet now take a most heinous offence at our quiet and harmless Engagement, wherein we have not expi-  
 est a Title which themselves have not all along, even to this very day declared to assert, procure, and maintain, and that it is our Birth-right which we may and ought to challenge as due unto us by the Laws.

And therefore we will now take the boldness, and without their leave to add a word or two more in vindication of that Subscription, and to speak a little plainer then the richness of the Affairs and Counsels now on foot, or the various designs and purposes, and hidden contrivements of the Great Ones (of which none can yet make a *Crisis*) will allow such a Paper as this, they standing wholly in the dark to us, and we in the light and their full discovery. And

And first we do very much suspect (and have more reason for it, then ever they had for their jealousies and fears) the Arbitrary Power of the Sword; for, Yea they what they please of their submission to the Laws, their every days Actions reclaims against such *Overbrages*; neither can it be otherwise, since the emergency and precipitating necessity of their affairs besides their Military inclinations that never yet brooked any reines, must put them upon dangerous attempts. Do we think our selves secured by the last Acts of the late Parliament from paying any Taxes or Imposition otherwise then by the consent of the people? 'Tis laught at at White-Hall, and it is one of the least Concernments of all their business. They are resolved to be a Perpetual Army, and that cannot be effected without constant pay. They were the Parliaments humble and faithful Servants but a week before they turned them but. Their Wills shall stand; for that is the Law they talk off; or else such Law as may make our Streets an *Akeldama*, where in stead of a beautiful Cross that invited the eyes of forein beholders; a shameful Gobel was erected to murder our innocent Brother, at which we were constrained to hide our eyes as ashamed of such butchery. And this was lately perpetrated and cannot be forgotten or excused.

And next what slippery, or gaw will your sixth of December produce? (be what it will we are sure it will produce and lengthen our miseries) We must blot out that inscription on the Basis of the Kings Statue at the Exchange (we may do it with shame enough) and date the restitution

stitution of our Liberty from Decemb. 1639. from your second meeting at White Hall, where you before set up Mr. Barebone's Parliament meere-ly to serve your Ambitious Lusts; It is a sure *Maxime, Nothing can give that which it hath not received.* And how will you dectve any Authority to your New Thing, that have none your Selves? And therefore we see we are like to be led in the Wilderness twenty years more, if we trust to your conduct, and must be fed with Miracles and Manna, and the Waters of Meribah; for there is no other means of Subsistence, our Trade being already lost and decayed:

And thirdly, your late quarrel and dissent among your selves: Two Wolves fall out, and the Ass is summoned and invited to catches assistance; 'tis your own Fable, and you can best tell the Moral. But 'tis apparent in all Histories, what miseries by such occasions have besel great and populous Places, witness the sad calamities that besel *Rome* during the War, and intestine broils betwixt *C. Marius* and *L. Sylla*; but you must not be hinted too much of this, for you are prone enough, and mightily well disposed to an expedition to this Holy Land; this is your journey's end after your wanderings in the Wilderness, the Land of Canaan flowing with Milk and Honey, Silver and Gold.

And now let your Proclamation term our Engagement dangerous to the Peace of the Commonwealth, we hope it will easily appear who are the Disturbers of it; we shall satisfy our selves with the Justice, Innocence, Integrity and

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Necessity of Our Desires in the PETITION,  
and we trust to find the Authority to whom we  
did address our selves, ready to comply with, and  
favourably assist our endeavours; That the  
Sword of our Chief Magistrate will be no longer  
an Ammunition Blade, that shall bend to all the  
Demands and Prescriptions of the Army. We  
have thus entred the Lists with a dull Pen, we  
hope it will be no provocation to sharper Wea-  
pons: but if it shall so happen, by that time they  
have lashed our Roast-meat, they may be well  
beaten with the Spit, for all their Politick Pati-  
ence last Monday.

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**F I N I S.**

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